

# THIS WEEK @ FMC - October 22-28, 2025

One honest voice I'm grateful for in these challenging times is Kate Bowler. She's an author, podcaster, poet, and professor at Duke University. And, her husband is a Canadian Mennonite! On her [website](#) she writes: *"I'm trying to build a gentler world for anyone willing to admit they're not always 'living their best life.' After being told I was incurable—and then being declared cancer-free—I realized there's no going back to the person I was. I've been reshaped by what I now know in my bones: Life is so beautiful. Life is so hard. For everyone."* I highly recommend her books, podcast, and emails! Here's one of her blessings, shared with me by one of you recently (thank you!!):

## **for when you're tired of broken systems**

*(found in Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie's book: The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days)*

O God, I am done with broken systems  
that break the very people  
they are meant to serve.

Harness this anger!  
Channel it into worthy action and show me  
what is mine to fix and what boundaries to patrol  
to keep goodness in and evil out.

Blessed are we who are appalled  
that brute ignorance can so easily dominate  
over decency, honesty, and integrity.

Blessed are we, who choose not to look away  
from systems that dehumanize, deceive, defame,  
and distort.  
We who recognize that thoughts and prayers  
are not enough.  
We who stand with truth over expediency,  
principle over politics  
community over competition.

Oh God, how blessed are we who cry out to you:  
Empower us to see and name what is broken,  
what is ours to restore.

Guide us to find coherent  
and beautiful alternatives  
that foster life, hope, and peace.  
Help us to use our gifts with one another in unity.

Blessed are we who choose to live in anticipation,  
our eyes scanning the horizon  
for signs of your kingdom –  
heaven come down –  
as we wait.

## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at 9:30am**

The link to join is on our website: [www.hutchfmc.org](http://www.hutchfmc.org) Join 5 minutes early for announcements. The bulletin can be found under the BULLETINS tab on our home page.

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025 – SOLOMON'S TEMPLE**

***1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13; (John 2:19-21)***

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader: Jon Miller

Organist: Pauline Buller

Song Leader: Magdalena Wenger

Children's Time: Bryan Kehr

Scripture Reader: Randy Rempel

Prayers of the People: send prayer concerns to Pastor Tonya 620-513-2828

Ushers: Marlene Thode & Kris Lindenberger

Nursery Attendant: Stephanie Gehring

Sound Tech: Shane Miller

Livestream Tech: Jonathan Wenger

## **SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS**

During each worship service, you are invited to text your prayer joys and concerns – usually to Pastor Tonya. You are also invited to send prayer joys & concerns during the week. The recording of our worship service is public, so let us know if you'd prefer your request to only be shared via email during the week.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements are scrolled Sunday mornings before and after worship. There will be no spoken announcements unless there are pressing announcements that did not make it into the PowerPoint. Please send any announcements you'd like to have included to the church office by Thursday each week.

## **OFFERINGS**

We welcome, and are grateful for, your financial donations to our ministry here in Hutchinson. Instead of collecting an offering during worship (except on special occasions), an offering box is placed at the back of the sanctuary for your Sunday morning donations. You can also now make a donation directly from our website ([www.hutchfmc.org](http://www.hutchfmc.org)) using a credit card or your banking account. You are also welcome to send a check to 52 Rambler Rd Hutchinson KS 67502.

## **CALENDAR – LOOKING AHEAD**

October 26 – FMC church budget meeting @ 11:00am (children's Sunday School meets as usual!)

October 31 – Halloween Donuts on the Lawn (volunteers needed beginning at 4pm till finished!)

November 1 – Singing Group at the Wenger's (5pm potluck; 6pm informal hymn sing)

November 3 – MCC Meat Canner day for volunteers from Reno County; 12:30-4:30pm (note new time)

November 5 – PCRC (Pastor Congregation Relations Committee) meets at 5:15pm

November 8 – Rethinking Justice Scripture Study of Hope in Newton (see below & talk to Tonya for details)

November 9 – Mission Festival – Raylene Hinz Penner, speaker; potluck after Sunday school

November 9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blessing of the Pets – 4:30pm (by the columbarium)

**REMINDER: If you are last one out of the church building, be SURE the doors lock behind you.**

# DEEPENING in Christ...

## PRAYER GROUPS & OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to join with others at FMC for prayer, please let the church office know.

**Tuesday (11:30am-12:30pm) ecumenical Centering Prayer group** is meeting weekly this fall. For more details, contact Pastor Tonya.

### **LPC: Listening-Prayer-Conversation Groups**

These groups meet for an hour once/month in the Common Grounds room and are facilitated by Pastor Tonya. The format allows for time in prayer by yourself and also with the group. Any are welcome to join, or to just come and check it out! It's also possible to join on Zoom if you prefer.

Our November gatherings are:      Tuesday November 11 at 1:00pm  
                                                                                 Wednesday November 12 at 6:30pm

## **FALL WORSHIP @ FMC – LIVING INTO GOD’S STORY**

We continue this fall exploring the story of God in the Hebrew scriptures which will lead us up to Advent (beginning Nov 30 this year). Upcoming service themes include...

**October 26 – Solomon’s Temple** (*1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13*) Pastor Tonya preaching

**November 2 - God Speaks to Elijah** (*1 Kings 19:1-18*) Pastor Tonya preaching

**November 9 – Mission Festival** *focusing on Indigenous Justice with Raylene Hinz Penner*  
(*Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24*)

**November 16 - Isaiah: A Child Is Born** (*Isaiah 9:1-7*) Pastor Tonya preaching

**November 23 - Jeremiah’s Letter to Exiles** (*Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14*) Pastor Tonya preaching

## **MISSION FESTIVAL – Sunday November 9**

Raylene Hinz-Penner from Newton will be our speaker, focusing on Indigenous Justice, including the mission of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and the related Kansas Repair Network, which Pastor Tonya has been participating with. Plan to stay for a potluck meal following Sunday School – bring a dish to share!!

## **FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all ages @ 11am!**

**Children (age 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Junior Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)** use Shine Curriculum from MennoMedia. This fall’s theme is: ***Fall of a Kingdom***, focusing on “*Calling On God – Psalms*” and “*Exile and Restoration – 1 & 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Ezra*”.

**Senior Youth (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)** meet with Jonathan Wenger, Tanya Martin Nisly, and various other teachers (including Pastor Tonya) through the year to build community, support each other, study the Bible, theology, and Anabaptist history. We also consider baptism, discuss current events and faith, and more.

**The Adult Class studying the Salt and Light Bible Study** this fall with the theme, “*Their Story, Our Story, and God’s Message*,” written by Osheta Moore. The study will include scripture texts from Genesis, Jeremiah and John’s epistles. They are meeting in the fellowship hall and a Zoom option will be available.

A “**Conversation & Connection**” adult group also meets during the Sunday School hour. Contact Maggie Pounds for more information or with questions about this group!

Sunday School classes meet at 11:00am throughout the church building. We do not have Sunday School on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and on some major holidays.

## **WDC's KIDS MEET CHRIST worship initiative . . . November 15**

***Preparing the Way for Children in Worship Event*** is a day of fellowship and learning about how to prepare the way for children in worship. Participants will hear from guest speaker Melissa Florer-Bixler about the scriptural foundation of including children in worship and practical steps to take to become more intergenerational. Michele Hershberger will facilitate discussions about congregational change and culture. There will also be resources to pick up (including Advent materials for children) and a catered lunch to enjoy! This event is part of the Kids Meet Christ worship initiative through Western District Conference. It is FREE for all participants from WDC congregations and \$25 for other participants. Contact Joy Miller, Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, if you would like to participate.

**Date: November 15, 2025**

**Time: 10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.**

**Location: Hope Mennonite Church - Wichita, KS**

## **UPPER ROOM and REJOICE! devotional magazines - available above the mailboxes**

- *UPPER ROOM* .. November, December
- *Rejoice!* .. September, October, November

# **STRENGTHENING Community Connections...**

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

- Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 12 noon – 3:00pm

## **PASTOR TONYA'S HOURS/SCHEDULE**

### **Office hours:**

- Monday: Day Off
- Tuesday-Friday: generally working 8:00am-5:30pm
- "In Office" Hours: 9-2 Tuesday and Thursday; noon-3pm Wednesdays
- Available other times by appointment.
- Available evenings and weekends (cell phone is most reliable)

Tonya has completed the Transforming Community experience, which gave shape to her sabbatical time spread out over 2 ½ years. She will be continuing a quarterly retreat rhythm (closer to home, beginning in January!) and will be observing a 'Day Apart' in the months she is not taking a retreat. In October

## **WNAF (WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST)**

### **FALL 2025 SERIES: LEARN-PRAY-ACT: LOCAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES**

Our Wednesday evening line-up is as follows, with the possibility of adding one more session (stay tuned!). We'll welcome local guests to help us learn – pray – and act in relation to these justice issues. Each evening will include a **meal provided between 5:45-6:45pm** (*donations welcome to help cover costs of the meal and honorariums for our speakers*) and an **adult program and activities for children between 6:45-7:45pm.**

- **October 22: Earth Justice** - with Earth Matters (various members) & 2nds on Second (Delon Martens); Introduction to Anabaptist Climate Collaborative (Adrienne Derstine)
- **October 29: Immigration Justice** with Esmerelda Tovar (Hutch in Harmony, Kansas Immigration Coalition, Wisdom in Motion)
- **November 5 – Housing Justice** with Pastor Jim Unruh

### **FMC's ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING . . . October 26, 11:00am**

On October 26, we, as a congregation, have the opportunity to again look at the financial picture of FMC, especially as it relates to how our giving funds the programs and opportunities, both internal and external, we value as a faith family. Copies of the proposed 2025-2026 budget and the explanatory narrative are available in the foyer.

Our treasurer, Mike Dirks, and the Coordination Teams (CT) have all had a hand in preparing the budget as they look at how our contributions help them in their various ministries. Their efforts have been approved by the Congregational Ministry Team (CMT) who will bring the proposed budget to you, the congregation, as a motion for consideration and approval.

Per our governance structure all who attend FMC may participate in the discussion, but voting privileges are only granted to those who hold membership or association membership at FMC.

So, come to the annual budget meeting at 11:00am on Sunday, October 26, and be a participant in mapping out the financial journey we will embark upon in the coming year. It promises to be a great journey. Delon Martens, Chair, Congregational Ministry Team

Note: Children's Sunday school will meet as usual during the budget meeting.

### **PASTOR CONGREGATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Kevin Martin-Nisly, Adam Pounds and Cheryl Warkentin serve on this committee and offer their skills in listening, affirming and supporting our connections between the congregation and our pastors. This group meets quarterly, welcoming your suggestions, concerns, affirmations and blessings as we seek to strengthen our relationships and support healthy communication patterns. Please speak with a committee member ahead of their meeting on November 5, with any comments you wish to share.

### **SINGING GROUP @ WENGER's . . . Saturday, November 1 – 5pm potluck, 6pm informal hymn sing**

All are invited to join with friends for informal fellowship and singing. Please bring a dish to share and a musical instrument, if you wish. Hymnals are provided.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE PETS . . . November 9, 4:30pm**

Bring your pet on a leash or in a cage and join with your church family for a blessing of the pets. Meet by the columbarium.

### **ARMS WIDE OPEN – FMC's history book**

The amazing story of First Mennonite Church's 100 years is told in the history book prepared for our centennial celebration. Copies of the book are available for \$25.00 (cash or check). You can also purchase a book online at a price that includes the cost of shipping (click on the "DONATE" button on our website to find this option). Check with the church office to pick up a book.

## **STRETCHING to Serve as Christ Served...**

### **RENO COUNTY FOOD BANK**

#### **Sunday morning donations in September: Canned Meat/Tuna**

Personal care/hygiene items such as these are appreciated anytime: toilet paper, laundry detergent, bath soap, Kleenex, deodorant, disposable razors, paper towels, shampoo, dish soap, hand/body lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Travel size – new & unopened – are desirable.

### **Nourishing Our Future Capital Campaign**

The Reno County Food Bank will be moving to a new location at 4<sup>th</sup> and Severence. Their capital campaign will fund the necessary renovations and the purchase of equipment at this location. Contributions may be made online at: <https://www.foodbankofrenocounty.org/campaign> or by sending a check to the Food Bank at this address: Food Bank Capital Campaign, 800 N Walnut, Hutchinson KS 67501  
Brochures are available on the table in the foyer or talk with Donna Davis for more information.

### **FRIENDSHIP MEALS OF RENO COUNTY – Noon Meal offered Monday-Friday**

South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging at 700 N. Walnut, inside the Salvation Army Building.

**Social Hour:** 11:00-11:45 with **Meals Served:** Beginning at 11:30am; last meals served at 12:15pm

*Special Events for Holiday Meals. Prizes for those bringing guests.*

*Monthly raffle (no purchase or donation necessary)*

**Age Requirement:** 60+ **Cost:** Suggested donation per person is \$4.00. NO ONE 60 or over will be denied a meal. Under 60 cost is \$7.08.

Home delivery can be arranged for those not able to travel.

**Questions/Concerns:** Lander at 620-663-7491. Donations are tax deductible.

### **KANSAS INTERFAITH ACTION (KIFA) HUTCHINSON EVENT – NOV 2 @ GRACE EPISCOPAL**

In just TWO WEEKS on **November 2nd at 6:30 pm** at **Grace Episcopal Church, 2 Hyde Park Dr, Kansas** ***Interfaith Action and the Kansas National Education Association*** will be coming to Hutchinson!

Join us for the opportunity to learn more about local elections, and their impacts on our public schools. We will discuss the importance of people of faith and conscience supporting their neighborhood schools and how we can use our voices to advocate for our students, educators, and communities.

Register at [bit.ly/SchoolSpiritHutchinson](http://bit.ly/SchoolSpiritHutchinson). This issue is important, so make sure to invite out any one you know who cares about public schools, or who wants to know why people of faith should care about them!

### **RETHINKING JUSTICE SCRIPTURE STUDY OF HOPE FOR CENTRAL KANSANS – NOV 8**

If you were at our Oct 15 WNAF (Wed Nights at First), this is the workshop Rev. Jeanne Koontz shared about at the end of her presentation. This workshop, specifically for lay people in congregations, will explore what the Bible has to say about justice, offer modern examples, and learn about the plan for a new Central Kansas organization working on justice issues together. We currently have 9 people from FMC Hutch signed up to attend, and would love to have more. Please contact Pastor Tonya for more details, and the registration link. Childcare is provided.

### **SALTHAWK COMMUNITY SUPPORT (SCS)**

Salthawk Community Support is a local nonprofit housed under the umbrella of Trinity UMC that FMC has been involved with from its beginning through Pastor Tonya's involvement on the board and donations of time, finances, and items from many of you in the congregation. There is a basket in the foyer under the table designated for donations of gently used clothing (appropriate for teens) as well as toiletry items.

**Right now, specific requests are for men's tennis shoes (size 7-10 in neutral colors), deodorant, and individually packaged snacks for students attending tutoring.**

### **KANSAS REPAIR NETWORK – MEET THE AUTHOR LAURIE DOVE ON NOVEMBER 11!**

The Kansas Repair Network is a coalition of local Mennonite churches (that is open to others joining, including non-Mennonite groups!) has had several meetings and is committed to focus our first advocacy/legislative campaign on the subject of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People. At this point we are at work to educate ourselves on this issue, nationally and in the state of Kansas, by first reading local bestselling writer Laurie Dove's novel, *Mask of the Deer Woman*. Pastor Tonya has a copy of the book she is happy to loan out (it's a fast, and interesting, read!). Laurie Dove (who is an Indigenous woman adopted as a child by a Mennonite family) will be at Bethel College Mennonite Church on Tuesday

evening November 11 to talk about her book with the Repair Network and friends. Pastor Tonya is planning right now to attend (exact time TBD) – let her know if you'd like to come with her!

### **LET'S TALK ABOUT IT! 50 CONVERSATIONS ON HOME, BELONGING & LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR**

If you are looking for meaningful ways to engage in conversations that feel hard, you might appreciate this resource provided by World Relief: a set of 'conversation cards' to use around the dinner table, over coffee, or during long rides home. Each question invites deeper connection, reflection and compassion — reminders of what unites us. You can download the cards for free here: [World Relief Conversation Cards](#). And, consider making a donation to [World Relief](#), which is a global Christian humanitarian organization whose mission is to boldly engage the world's greatest crises in partnership with the church.

### **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MCC Meat Canning** will be coming to North Newton and the time for Hutchinson area volunteers is Monday, November 3, 12:30-4:30pm (note this adjustment in time). To volunteer, talk with Eldon Wagler, who is now our contact person with the Meat Canner! Contributions toward purchasing meat and canning supplies are also needed. Please make contributions by October 19. Checks written to First Mennonite Church and designated for MCC Canner may be placed in the offering box.

**Recycling opportunities at MCC in North Newton, KS!** MCC accepts the following materials for recycling, cardboard, books, and paper. We also recycle soft plastics (any plastic packaging that you can stretch with your finger, including Amazon mailers and bubble wrap). We also accept and process wearable clothing, shoes and purses/bags. However, it is best to donate those items to an Et Cetera Shop first, if possible. When you arrive at MCC, follow the signs toward the warehouse and you'll find bins outside under the covered roof for each recyclable item. MCC is located at 121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street in North Newton, questions can be directed to [duaneunruh@mcc.org](mailto:duaneunruh@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720.

### **MENNONITE FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITIES announces *EVENING at the BURT***

**Have you heard that Mennonite Friendship Communities' Evening at the Burt is quickly approaching?** The silent auction portion has gone live! Some of the items are available for people to bid on prior to the event. Other items can only be bid on that night. And there's still time to purchase your ticket to the event – Tuesday, October 28 – doors opening at 5:30pm and dinner served at 6:30pm. Come hear Larry Hatteberg, enjoy tasty food and bid on some fun items. All for a great cause. Contact Susan Nisly at [snisly@mennofriend.com](mailto:snisly@mennofriend.com) or Joretta Martens for more information. And to check out the silent auction items - <https://my.onecause.com/event/organizations/ce8086c8-d429-47fc-81be-0db95c42386b/events/vevt:a7ed33fb-af82-4e89-8a90-36155fc81bb3/preview/auctions/silent-auction>

### **BETHEL COLLEGE announcements**

**Tues., Oct. 28 – Bethel College Chamber Orchestra concert, Kris Hilding, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center**

**Sun., Nov. 2 – Bethel Sings, a concert featuring all Bethel College vocal groups, Dr. Russell Adrian, director, 4 p.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church**

**Registration is now open for Bethel College's Worship and the Arts Symposium, Nov. 2-4 on the Bethel campus.** There is no fee, but registration is needed to get accurate numbers. Go to <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/worship-and-the-arts-symposium/> and click the "Registration" button. **The focus of the 2025 symposium is homiletics, with Dr. Luke Powery** from Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C. Of particular interest to pastors but open to everyone is a **preaching masterclass from 9 a.m.-noon on Tuesday, Nov. 4**. The featured visual artist is Merrill Krabill, Goshen, Ind., a former professor at Bethel and now retired from teaching at Goshen College. Use the link above to see a complete schedule.

The 2025 issue of *Mennonite Life*, Bethel College's annual online journal, is now live at [ml.bethelks.edu](http://ml.bethelks.edu), with articles and reviews by Susan Fish, Ardie Goering, Don Goertzen, Peter Goertzen, Jeff Gundy, Michele Hershberger, Melanie Howard, Melanie Springer Mock, Justina Neufeld, Ken Rodgers, Mary Schertz and John D. Thiesen.

### **HESSTON MENNONITE CHURCH YOUTH sponsor FAIR TRADE POP-UP SHOP**

A Fair Trade "pop up shop" is coming to the area just in time to start your holiday shopping! Paula Brunk Kuhns, owner of *Just Cause, a fair trade store* based in Portland, OR, will be setting up her store at Hesston Mennonite Church (309 S Main St. Hesston, KS) for a 2-day event, October 24-25. The store will be open from 10am-7pm each day. Find beautifully crafted baskets, jewelry, home decor, kitchenware, metal art, cards, Christmas nativities and ornaments, and so much more from over 30 countries around the world.

When you shop Fair Trade, you're not just buying a beautifully crafted item. You're partnering with artisans around the world as they preserve their craft, support their families, and build a sustainable future. Each piece holds a story, and you become part of it. This is also a fundraiser for the Hesston Mennonite Church Youth Groups.

### **HOFFNUNGSAU MENNONITE CHURCH MISSION SUPPER**

**Hoffnungsau Church**, 43 13th Ave, Inman, invites you to our annual Mission Supper on Saturday, October 25, 5:00 – 6:30. It will be curbside pick up with tables also available if you want to stay and eat. Please text or call 620-585-6733 to order a meal of German sausage, mashed potatoes, creamed peas, zwieback and pie. Payment is by donation with all proceeds going towards McPherson Housing Coalition.

### **WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE announcements**

**"Repeal to Heal: Death Penalty Repeal Advances the Culture of Life"**, is the theme for the 2025 *Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty* Conference to be held on November 22, at Hudson Auditorium in the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at Johnson County Community College. A virtual option is available as well.

The decision to sentence someone to death is a statement that the defendant's life is disposable. It is a societal judgment that more violence is the answer to the act of homicide. So instead of stopping the cycle of violence and asking how there can be accountability and healing, we replicate the original act. More pain and trauma result. People are increasingly exploring how the death penalty harms a culture of life. This conference will offer an opportunity to explore this theme further through the lenses of faith and politics.

Speakers include the following: Krisanne Vallaincourt Murphy of Catholic Mobilizing Network, Nan Tolson of Texas Conservatives Concerned and Kansas Representative Bill Sutton, R-District 43. This conference speaks to **A Resolution: The Death Penalty** affirmed by Mennonite Church USA delegates in 2001.

### **CAMP MENNOSCAH announcements**

**Verenike Casserole Meal Returns!** Camp Mennoscah will be having a Verenike Casserole Fundraiser on November 8 at Faith Mennonite Church. The meal consists of verenike casserole, seasoned green beans, zwieback, and fruit crisp. Reserve your meals at <https://forms.gle/DMurJFkp5P7Fb3C86> **Meals will be available at Faith Mennonite Church between 5:30-6:30pm on November 8th. You may either drive-thru and pick up your meals or dine in.** Watch Camp Mennoscah's Facebook page and check your email for any changes. Suggested donation of \$20 per meal or \$40 per pan. Additional donations are welcome!

**Retreat Center Work Day on October 25! Please call or text Tom Gaeddert at 316-288-7766 to participate.** The retreat center at Camp Mennoscah has provided many folks with the opportunity to participate in a multitude of camp activities and we are looking to jump start the renovation project with new management, fresh volunteers, and renewed financial assistance. To complete the project, we need your help whether you have construction skills or not! We'd like to create a list of people who we can email for specific work day projects as they come up. Donations are also greatly appreciated and can be sent directly to camp designated for "Retreat Center". Thanks for your help!

**Welcome to Eric Litwiller!** Eric is the new Development Director for Camp Mennoscah. He has jumped in head-first to activities and has already started making contacts. He can be reached at [eric.litwiller@campmennoscah.org](mailto:eric.litwiller@campmennoscah.org)

**Volunteers are needed for grounds work.** This could be mowing, trail maintenance, string trimming, poison ivy and sticker plant control, or likely any number of other things. Contact us at 620-297-3290 to discuss opportunities!

### **MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements**

#### **Menno Snapshots**

Stanley W. Green, executive conference minister of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference, shared four realignments to heal and renew the church in his recent article for Leader magazine (reprinted by MC USA, with permission). Read it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/realigning/>

**The big dove is here!** MC USA has launched an online storefront featuring hats, sweatshirts, mugs and more. Check the selection of merch – sales support MC USA ministries! [bonfire.com/store/mc-usa-gear/](https://bonfire.com/store/mc-usa-gear/)

### **MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE (MDS)**

Our October edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares what gives him goosebumps, learn how MDS volunteers are changing lives in a remote Alaska village and read how volunteering with MDS during Katrina impacted so many lives. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/4n50530>

**Hope amid hardship: MDS works in remote Alaska village.** Robert Pitka thinks of MDS volunteers as good workers—and good listeners, too. The tribal administrator for Toksook Bay, home to about 700 people in western Alaska, Pitka recalled when the tribal council first considered inviting MDS to help repair homes in the Nunakauuariut community, who maintain a predominately traditional diet from fishing, and hunting caribou and moose. [Click here to read more](#)

### **MENNONITE HISTORY TOUR TO POLAND . . . BETHEL COLLEGE tour July 10-21, 2026**

Poland was the refuge and homeland for generations of Mennonites during years of intolerance after the Protestant Reformation. As a result, the history of Poland is part of the history of many Mennonites around the world. As early as the 1530s, Anabaptists from Holland and the lowlands of the Rhine and North Germany found a sanctuary in the Polish Commonwealth. Unlike Switzerland and the Holy Roman Empire, Poland rejected the brutal religious persecutions plaguing Western Europe. As a result, along with others seeking religious freedom and economic opportunity, many Dutch and German Mennonites settled in Poland, and remained there until later migrations took some to Ukraine and others to the American Midwest and southern Manitoba. This tour is designed to reacquaint persons of Mennonite descent, and others, with the country that provided their ancestors a safe and secure homeland for so many years from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries.

Information here: <https://mla.bethelks.edu/information/mpsa.php>